



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

***Department of  
Agricultural Commissioner/  
Weights and Measures***

**Cato R. Fiksdal**  
Agricultural Commissioner/  
Director of Weights and Measures

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**Robert G. Atkins**  
Chief Deputy

August 12, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**CONTROL OF PIERCE'S DISEASE AND GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER  
IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
(3-VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Reappoint the Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures (ACWMD) as the lead agent for the County of Los Angeles in the inspection of plant shipments for the control of Pierce's Disease and its vector, Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS). This appointment will be presented to the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).
2. Instruct the Chair to sign upon presentation CDFA contract agreement 03-0303.
3. Authorize the ACWMD to execute contract work agreement #03-0303 with CDFA, to continue the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter/Pierce's Disease Program. The total amount payable to Los Angeles County, under this agreement, is \$1,023,677.77 for work performed between July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.
4. Authorize the ACWMD to amend the contract agreement in an amount not to exceed 15% of the original contract.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Senate Bill 671 (May 19, 2000) requires that counties infested with Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) designate a lead agency/department. This designation will allow the ACWMD to recover the costs for the GWSS control inspection program in Los Angeles County from CDFA. SB 671 declared that the plant killing bacterium, *Xyella fastidiosa*, known as Pierce's Disease, and GWSS present a clear and present danger

to California's grape industry, as well as to many other agricultural commodities and plant life. The Pierce's Disease Control Program is to be conducted by the local public entity designated by our Board of Supervisors under a CDFA approved Pierce's Disease workplan.

The Pierce's Disease Control Program will significantly affect plant growing nurseries, Los Angeles County's number one agricultural industry. The program calls for the inspection of all nursery stock destined for regulating counties. In addition, wine-grape growers in Los Angeles County require inspection certification to move bulk grape shipments to regulating counties.

ACWMD has consulted and worked collaboratively with all the shipping nurseries and wine-grape growers to assist in controlling the spread of this pest.

#### Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Awarding this contract meets Los Angeles County's Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence. Continuing the Pierce's Disease Control Program significantly enhances the ACWMD's ability to certify nursery plants and wine-grapes shipped from Los Angeles County. California requires the certification of nursery plants and wine-grapes, and our timely response to shipping requests benefit the county's agricultural industry.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

Approval of the recommended actions will provide full cost recovery and has no effect on our departmental net County cost.

Funding will be provided by contracting with CDFA under the authority of SB 671 as signed by the Governor on May 19, 2000.

#### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

County Counsel has approved the State's contract agreement to form.

#### **IMPACT OF CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):**

As the lead agency, ACWMD will conduct a public information program to alert nurseries and grape growers of shipping and treatment regulations, as well as perform inspections and certification of plant and grape shipments. Without inspection, treatment, and certification, nursery and bulk grape growers would be prohibited from shipping any GWSS host material to regulating counties, resulting in an estimated loss of \$25 million to the county's plant producing nurseries and grape growers.

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**CONCLUSION:**

When approved, please return to this Department the five (5) signed copies along with the minute order authorizing the Chair to sign. The Department will forward to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Contracts Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Cato R. Fiksdal  
Agricultural Commissioner/  
Director of Weights and Measures

Attachments  
CRF:PJD:CO::mm

c: Chief Administrative Officer, Executive Officer, County Counsel, CAO Budget Analyst